# The Oil Shock of 2005 and U.S. Agriculture

Mathew Shane
Senior Macroeconomist
Economic Research Service of
U.S. Department of Agriculture

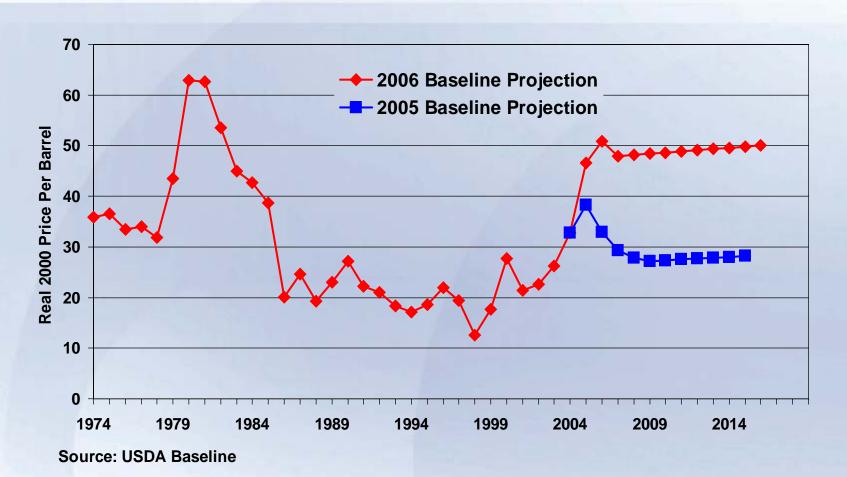


#### Introduction

- Oil prices rose in 2005 more than anyone expected
- Change in the current outlook for longterm increase in oil and energy prices
- What has caused this dramatic change?
- What does it mean for U.S. agriculture?



# The USDA Baseline expectations of future oil price has jumped





#### What has caused change in energy outlook?

#### Demand outstripped supply

- High GDP growth in China, India and other Asian Newly Industrialized Economies competing with.....
- High GDP growth and energy demand in the United States
- Supply uncertainties from Iran and Iraq,
   Venezuela, and Nigeria
- Difficulties bringing new oil supplies online



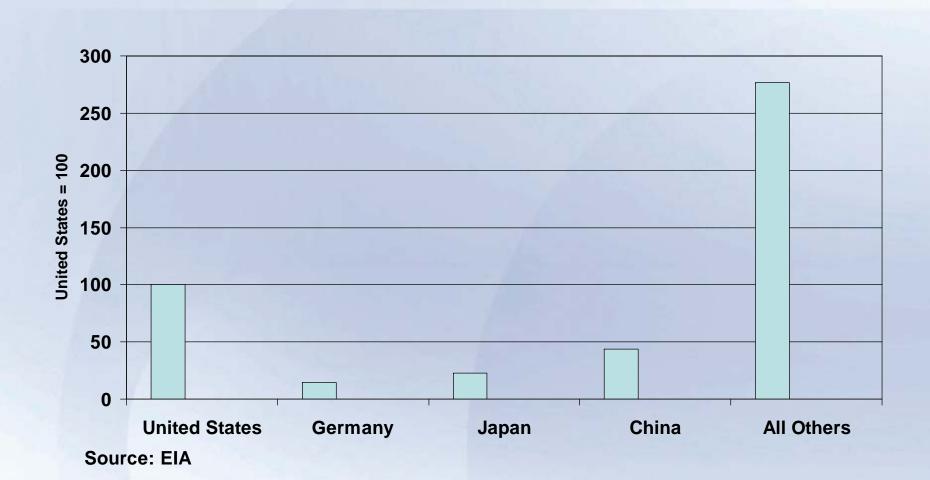
#### What factors will stabilize the energy market?

#### Over time higher prices will induce

- -efficiency gains
- -conservation
- -increase supplies from producers

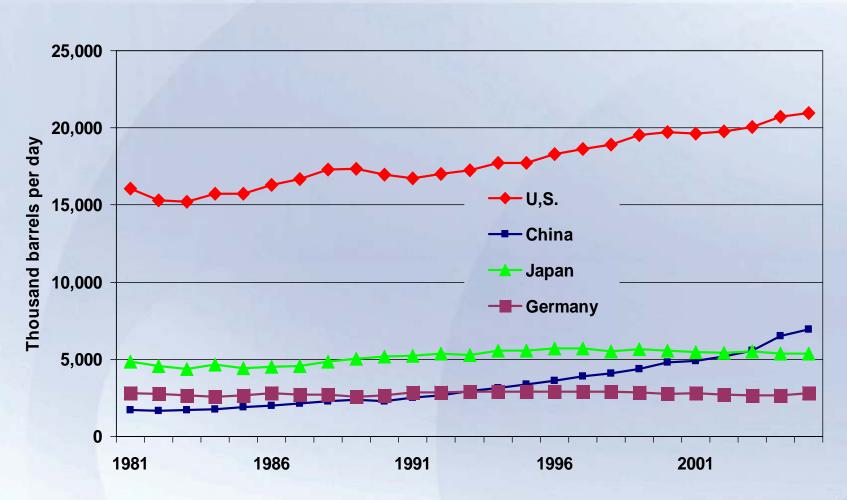


#### Energy use index of major users



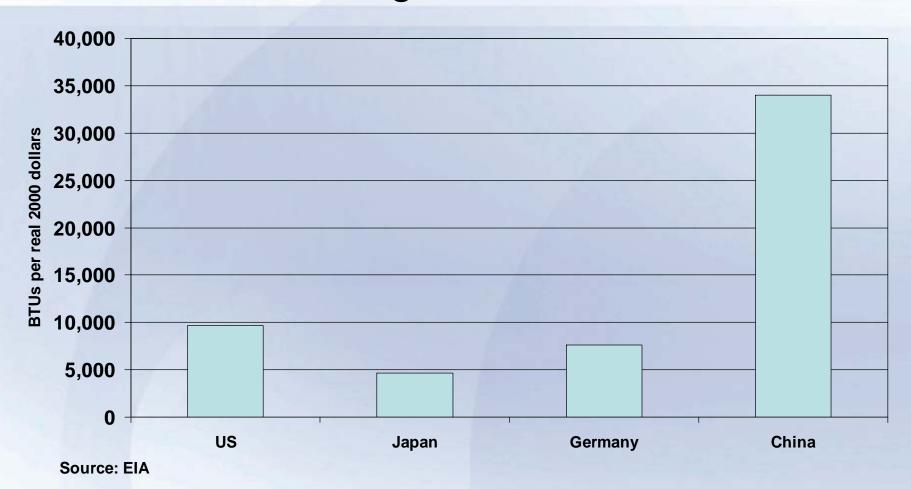


# China becomes number two oil consumer in 2003



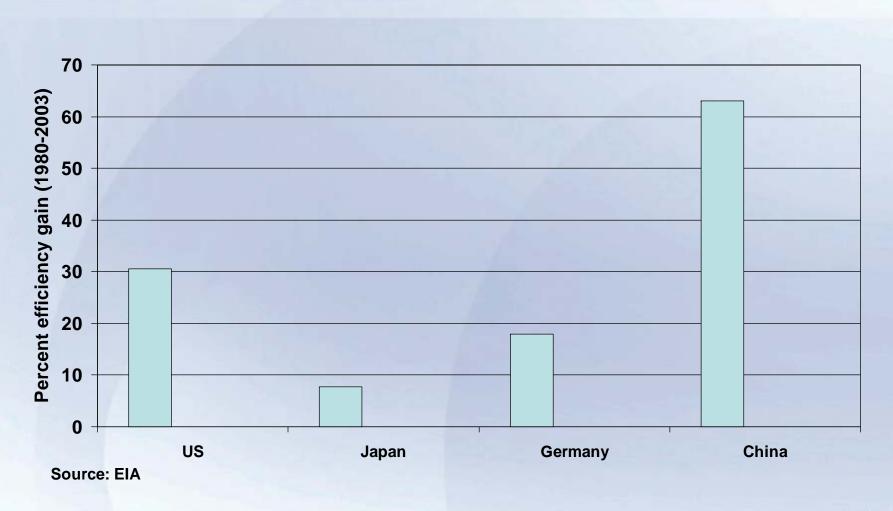


# China has high energy use per dollar output, average 2001-2003





#### But China shows highest efficiency gains



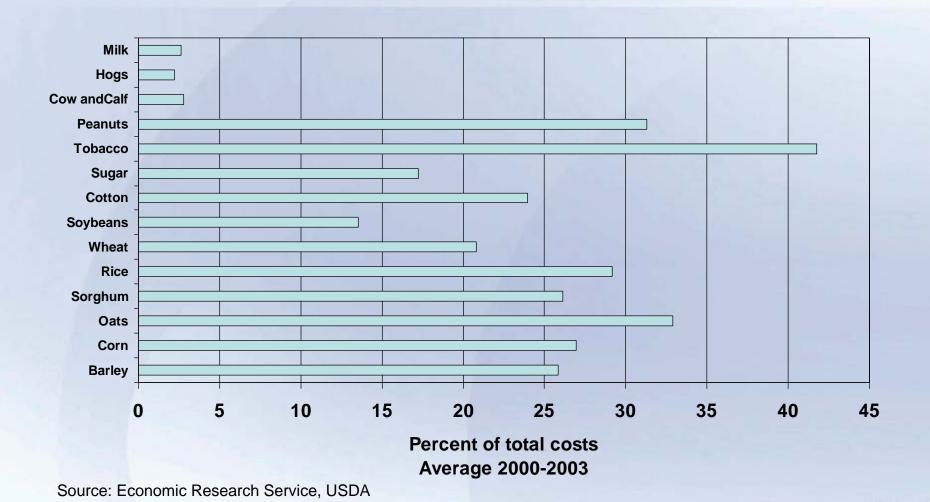


#### Where does U.S. agriculture fit in?

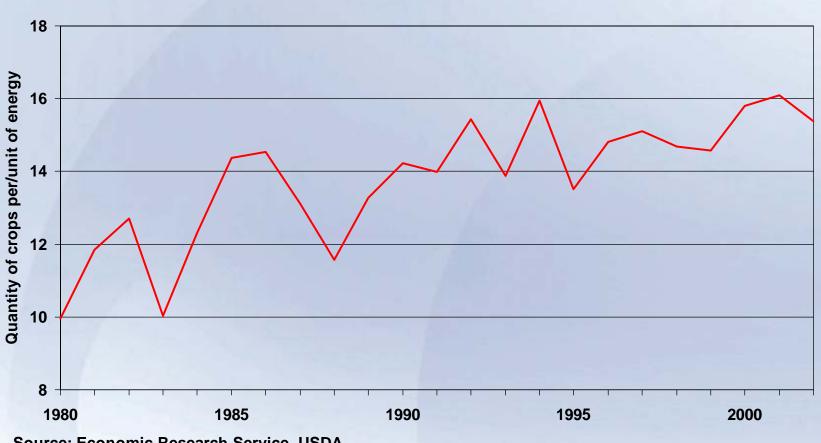
- Agriculture is an energy intensive sector
- Cheap energy has facilitated energy intensity
- Efficiency gains more important for sector
- Reducing energy use will result from:
  - further efficiency gains
  - compositional change away from high energy use in agricultural subsectors



#### Energy use is concentrated in crop production



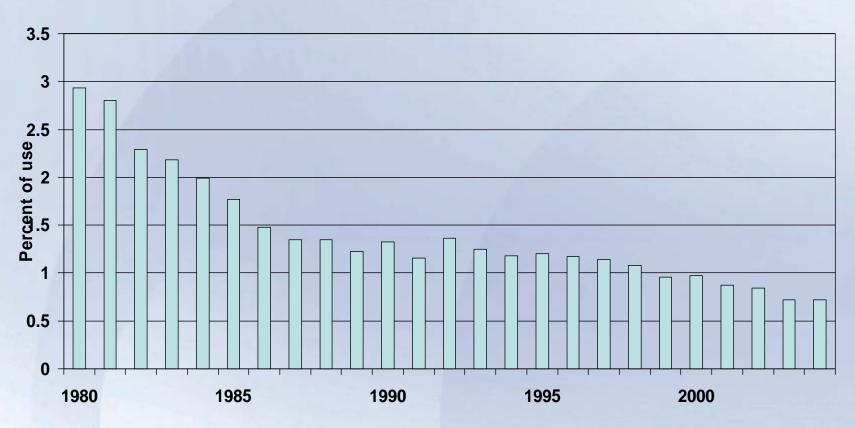
#### U.S. agriculture has increased energy efficiency over 50 percent







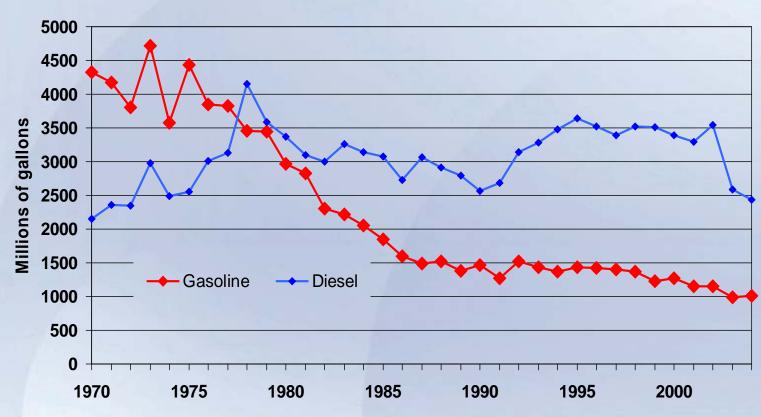
### Farm percentage of US gasoline use drops sharply from 1980 to 2004

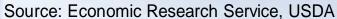


Source: Economic Research Service, USDA



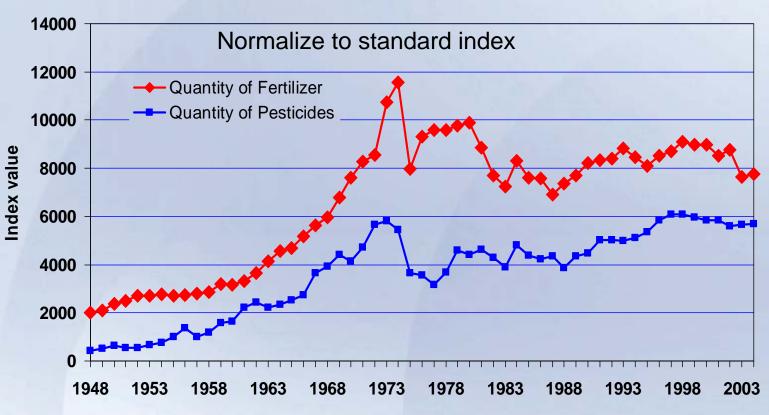
#### Farmers replace gasoline with diesel







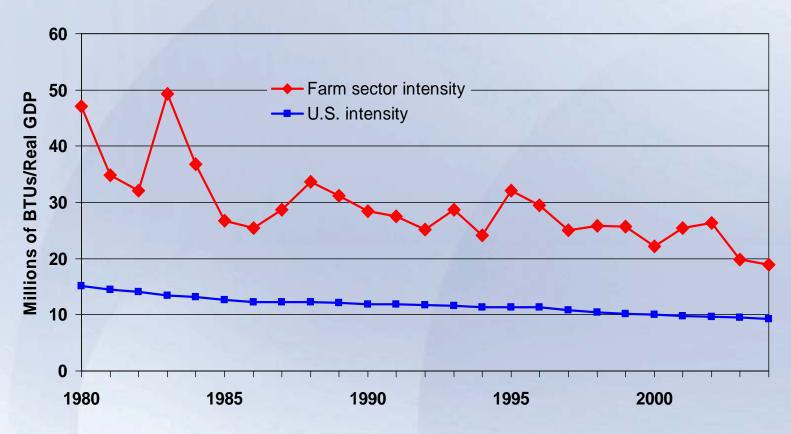
# Fertilizer use peaks in 1974 while pesticide use peaks in 1997



Source: Economic Research Service, USDA



### Farm energy intensity declined faster than overall U.S energy intensity 1980 to 2004



Source: Economic Research Service, USDA and EIA



# Emerging patterns of agricultural energy use and efficiency

- Energy will be a major share of farm costs, even as efficiency improves
- High energy costs will be a drag on farm income
- High energy prices will stimulate energy efficiency gains
- High energy costs will encourage production of lower energy crops

